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THE GLENNDALE GOOSEBERRY

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ORIGIN AND ADAPTATION

The Glenndale[1] is one of the two varieties of gooseberries originated by the late Walter Van Fleet, who began gooseberry-breeding work at his home in Little Silver, N. J., in 1895, and continued it until his death at Glenn Dale, Md., in 1922. His records show that he used *Grossularia oxyacanthoides*, *G. missouriensis*, *G. cynosbati*, *G. rotundifolia*, and *G. reclinata*, as well as such named varieties as Downing, Houghton, and Josselyn. The resulting seedlings showed many outstanding and distinctive types. His first named variety, the Van Fleet, was introduced in 1916 by J. T. Lovett, of Little Silver, N. J. This variety was recorded by Van Fleet as an F_2 generation of (Houghton × Industry) × Keepsake, although Berger[2] gives its parentage as an F_2 from (Houghton × Keepsake) × Industry.

The Glenndale gooseberry originated from a cross of [(*Grossularia missouriensis* × Red Warrington) × Triumph] × Keepsake, at Little Silver, N. J., probably about 1905. The variety has been tested since 1913 near Washington, D. C., and in various other parts of the United States. It was sent to cooperating nurseries in 1926 for testing and propagation. The bush has grown vigorously on sandy loams near Washington, D. C., where other varieties have died out entirely. On heavy soils the bushes have grown to an immense size, producing heavy crops, while other sorts have been raised with difficulty.

The Glenndale gooseberry is being introduced because of its adaptation to the southern limit of gooseberry growing where other

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[1] The one-word form Glenndale is used as the name of this variety of gooseberry, as this is the form previously published, and as it was the form approved by the U. S. Geographic Board for the name of the place for which the variety was named at the time the name was first so applied. The two-word form Glenn Dale, however, is used for the name of the town or post office, in accordance with a more recent decision of the board.

[2] BERGER, A. A TAXONOMIC REVIEW OF CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES. N. Y. State Agr. Expt. Sta. Tech. Bul. 109, 118 pp., illus. 1924.

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sorts die out or are grown with difficulty, and because it will carry gooseberry culture much farther south than standard sorts can now be grown. It is recommended for trial in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and those parts of western North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Kentucky where the Downing and Poorman varieties do not succeed. It is also recommended for the lighter soils in regions where other sorts ordinarily succeed. It is not, however, the equal of the Poorman or of the Oregon (*Oregon Champion*) and Downing where those varieties succeed best.

NAMING AND INTRODUCTION

The variety was named for Glenn Dale, Md., where Doctor Van Fleet lived and did his breeding work for several years before his death in 1922. It is being introduced by cooperating nurseries. The United States Department of Agriculture has no plants to sell or distribute.

CHARACTERIZATION

As the value of a new variety may be most readily estimated by comparison with standard varieties, the Glenndale is herein compared with the Downing and the Poorman.

The plants are far more vigorous than those of the Downing or the Poorman, growing to a height of 6 feet (and even 8 feet) under good conditions on heavy soil at Washington, D. C. The foliage is much more resistant than that of those sorts to leaf spot (*Mycosphaerella grossulariae* (Fr.) Lindau) and usually remains on the plants all summer at Washington, D. C., and in Kansas without any spraying. It is also resistant to mildew (*Sphaerotheca mors-uvae* (Schw.) Berk. and Curt.), which has never been serious on the foliage or fruit where observed.

Because of the possible susceptibility of this variety to blister rust, it is recommended that it be planted not closer than 900 feet to any white pine. In the Appalachian Mountain region, where white pine is of commercial importance, it probably should not be planted at all.[3]

The Glenndale grows readily from cuttings, the large bush shown in Figure 1 representing only two years' growth from a cutting. The bushes are extremely productive, as much as 20 quarts being produced by a single plant under conditions near Washington, D. C., and in Kansas. On sandy soil at Glenn Dale, Md., nine plants 5 years old bore an average of 9⅓ quarts each. It has borne well at Geneva, N. Y., at Urbana, Ill., and at Mandan, N. Dak., but has not borne as well as Downing, near Lexington, Ky., nor at one point in northern Maryland. Colby[4] has reported that it was the only variety that produced as many seeds from self-pollination as from open pollination.

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[3] DARROW, G. M., and DETWILER, S. B. CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES: THEIR CULTURE AND RELATION TO WHITE-PINE BLISTER RUST. U. S. Dept. Agr. Farmers' Bul. 1398, 42 pp., illus. 1930.

[4] COLBY, A. S. NOTES ON SELF-FERTILITY OF SOME GOOSEBERRY VARIETIES. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. Proc. (1926), 23: 138–140. [1927.]

The fruit (fig. 2) is as large as or a little larger than that of the Downing, but is of a dull reddish purple color when ripe. It has a smooth thin skin and small seeds and makes excellent jam.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

The Glenndale variety was described by Berger[5] as follows:

Bushy, erect shrub, with stout shoots; nodal spines stout, straight, single, or ternate.

Leaves with a truncate or roundish wedge-shaped base, broader than long, roundish, 3-lobed, lobes short, obtuse, crenate, finely pubescent on both sides when young, glabrous when old; petioles pubescent, with some long hairy or glandular fringes near the base.

Peduncles shorter than the petioles, glabrous or puberulous, one to two flowered; bracts roundish, glandular-ciliate; pedicels glabrous or hairy at the end.

Ovary oblong or pyriform, varying on the same branch from glabrous to densely pubescent. Receptacle campanulate, about 4 mm. long and wide, green and pubescent, densely hairy inside; sepals linear-oblong, obtuse, spreading or reflexed, 6–7 mm. long, pubescent outside, green, purplish along the margins, from greenish red to pretty red inside; petals spatulate, white, erect, one-third as long as the sepals; stamens exceeding the sepals, filaments filiform, straight, connivent, white, glabrous, anthers oblong, green; style finally exceeding them, split almost half way, green, hairy below.

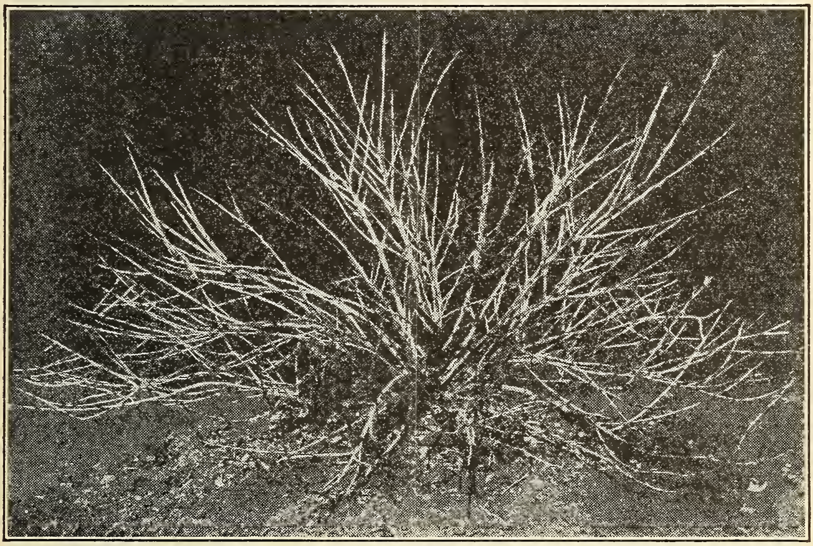

FIGURE 1.—A 2-year-old Glenndale gooseberry bush before it was pruned (October 22)

Berry roundish-elliptic, dark reddish purple, smooth, thin skinned, good quality.

SUGGESTIONS REGARDING CULTURE

The culture of the Glenndale apparently differs from that of other sorts in only one particular, the distance apart to set the plants. Because of the very large size to which the bushes grow, at least on fertile heavy soils near Washington, D. C., they should be set somewhat farther apart than other sorts. In the more sandy soils 5 feet may be sufficient, but in the richer heavy soils they should be at least 7 feet apart each way.

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[5] BERGER, A. Op. cit. (See footnote 2.)

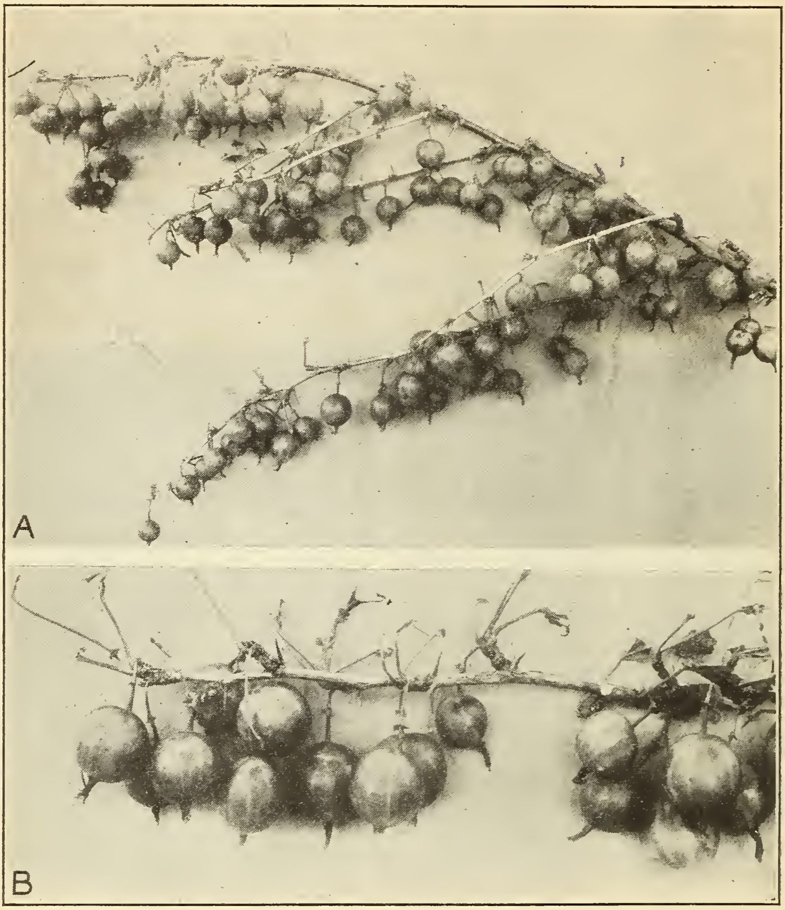

FIGURE 2.—Fruiting branches of the Glenndale gooseberry: A, A heavy crop, about one-third natural size; B, berries, about two-thirds natural size

If an attempt is made to raise the Glenndale farther south than other sorts are now raised, the bushes should probably be sprayed for leaf-spot control, according to the directions in Farmers' Bulletin 1398 (p. 25).[6]

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[6] See footnote 3.

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